

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 2015**

Council President Alexius called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Roll call was as follows:

PRESENT: John Callahan, Jerry Coner, Mark Wright, Larry Rolling, Rick Smith, Sam O'Keefe and Lee Alexius

ABSENT: None

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Engineer Daniel Hill.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the consent calendar. The consent calendar was adopted.

REGULAR AGENDA

Unfinished Business

Items to be voted on:

1. ITEM NO. 2015-07-01 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Enlarging the Boundaries of the City of Covington, Louisiana, Describing the Property to be Annexed and Added Thereto as Tract A-1 (87.06 Acre Parcel of Land) in Sections 29 and 38, Township 6 South, Range 11 East, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Said Parcel Being Located on U.S. Hwy. 190 (Bypass), Also Known as Ronald Reagan Highway, and Further Classifying a Portion of This Parcel (80.36 Acres) as RS-1 Single Family Residential Zoning District and the Remaining Portion (6.70 Acres) as CR Regional Commercial Zoning District Under the Zoning Laws of the City of Covington (Zoning Case No. 15-05-01ANNEX) (Alexius)

Council President Alexius stated that this item was introduced in July and due to the fact no action was taken within 120 days of introduction, the item should be withdrawn. Mr. Jeff Schoen, attorney for the developer, concurs with the withdrawal of this item and requested that it be reintroduced this evening. Council President Alexius stated that the item will be considered for reintroduction under New Business on tonight's agenda.

Councilman Coner made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman O'Keefe. There were no objections to closing the public hearing. The public hearing was closed.

Councilman Coner made a motion to withdraw Item No. 2015-07-01, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to withdraw Item No. 2015-07-01. Item No. 2015-07-01 was withdrawn.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2015-09-01 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Setting the Compensation for the Mayor of the City of Covington for 2016 (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2015-09-01.

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by **Councilman Coner**. There were no objections to closing the public hearing. The public hearing was closed.

Councilman Wright made a motion to amend Item No. 2015-09-01, as follows:

Page 1, line 25, shall read, "Annual salary of \$84,609 representing a 5% cost of living increase..."

Seconded by **Councilman Coner**. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2015-09-01 as set out above. Item No. 2015-09-01 was amended as set out above.

Councilman Coner made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-09-01, as amended, seconded by **Councilman Rolling**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-09-01, as amended. Item No. 2015-09-01 was adopted, as amended.

3. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2015-09-02 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Adopting the 2016 Operating Budget and the Five Year Capital Outlay Budget for the Years 2016-2020 for the City of Covington (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2015-09-02.

Councilman Coner made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by **Councilman Wright**. There were no objections to closing the public hearing. The public hearing was closed.

Councilman Coner made a motion to amend Item No. 2015-09-02 as reflected in the October 30, 2015 printout, seconded by **Councilman O’Keefe**. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2015-09-02 as reflected in the October 30, 2015 printout. Item No. 2015-09-02 was amended as reflected in the October 30, 2015 printout.

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-09-02, as amended, seconded by **Councilman Wright**. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-09-02, as amended. Item No. 2015-09-02 was adopted, as amended in the October 30, 2015 printout.

4. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2015-10-01 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Amending the Following Provisions of the Covington Code of Ordinances: Appendix B, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 4. General Provisions, Sec. 4.1. Off-Street Parking (Alexius)

Council President Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2015-10-01.

(Due to malfunction of microphones, they were turned off.)

Councilman Callahan made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by **Councilman Rolling**. There were no objections to closing the public hearing. The public hearing was closed.

Amendment No. 1 to Item No. 2015-10-01:

Councilman Wright made a motion to amend Item No. 2015-10-01 as follows:

Page 2, Off-Street Parking Schedule, “Group Homes” should read, **“Group or Community Homes”**;

Page 3, Off-Street Parking Schedule, “Auto Wash” should read, **“Automobile Wash”**; and

Page 3, Off-Street Parking Schedule, “Exercise and Workout Room/Health Clubs – 1 space per 50 s.f. per room” should be deleted.

Seconded by **Councilman Smith**. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2015-10-01 as set out in Amendment No. 1 above. Item No. 2015-10-01 was amended as set out in Amendment No. 1 above.

Amendment No. 2 to Item No. 2015-10-01:

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to amend Item No. 2015-10-01 as follows:

Page 3, Off-Street Parking Schedule, the Minimum Number of Parking Spaces Required for “Public Assembly/Arenas/Theaters/Auditoriums” and “Gymnasium” should read, **“1 space/4 fixed seats and/or 1 space per 40 s.f. gross floor area without fixed seats used for assembly purposes.”**

Seconded by **Councilman Coner**. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2015-10-01 as set out in Amendment No. 2 above. Item No. 2015-10-01 was amended as set out in Amendment No. 2 above.

Amendment No. 3 to Item No. 2015-10-01:

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to amend Item No. 2015-10-01 as follows:

Page 5, line 18, should read, “2. All shared or off-site parking spaces must be located no further than 450 feet...”

Page 5, line 49, should read, “...where exclusive use of such is provided on another lot not more than 450 feet...”

Seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to amend Item No. 2015-10-01 as set out in Amendment No. 3 above. Item No. 2015-10-01 was amended as set out in Amendment No. 3 above.

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-10-01, as amended in Amendment Nos. 1, 2 and 3 above, seconded by Councilman Smith. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-10-01, as amended in Amendment Nos. 1, 2 and 3 above. Item No. 2015-10-01 was adopted, as amended in Amendment Nos. 1, 2 and 3 above.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

INTRODUCTION OF ITEM NO. 2015-11-03 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Enlarging the Boundaries of the City of Covington, Louisiana, Describing the Property to be Annexed and Added Thereto as Tract A-1 (87.06 Acre Parcel of Land) in Sections 29 and 38, Township 6 South, Range 11 East, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Said Parcel Being Located on U.S. Hwy. 190 (Bypass), Also Known as Ronald Reagan Highway, and Further Classifying a Portion of This Parcel (80.36 Acres) as RS-1 Single Family Residential Zoning District and the Remaining Portion (6.70 Acres) as CR Regional Commercial Zoning District Under the Zoning Laws of the City of Covington (Zoning Case No. 15-05-01ANNEX) (Alexius)

Council President Alexius mentioned that Item No. 2015-11-03 was previously identified as Item No. 2015-07-01 which was withdrawn earlier this evening.

Councilman Wright made a motion to introduce Item No. 2015-11-03, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to introduce Item No. 2015-11-03. Item No. 2015-11-03 was introduced.

Items for discussion:

2016 Council meeting schedule (Alexius)

The proposed 2016 Council meeting schedule was discussed and approved.

Council President Alexius announced there will be only one Council meeting in December which will be held on Tuesday, December 15th at 6 P.M. in the Council Chambers. The meeting scheduled for December 1, 2015 has been cancelled.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

- 1. District A – None.**
- 2. District B –**

Councilman Coner recognized the November birthdays for City employees. His quote for this evening was, "Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they never quit," by Conrad Hilton, American Hotelier (1887-1979). Also, he reminded the public to shop locally to support our local businesses in our City. Also, he reminded everyone to support the City of Covington's Proposition for Sales Tax Extension and Rededication that is on the ballot for the November 21, 2015 election. He mentioned that the proposition is not a new tax and it will allow flexibility for spending tax dollars where needed. Also, he mentioned that

his family and several constituents voted early in support of the proposition because it is extremely important for the City of Covington.

3. District C –

Councilman Wright reminded the public that the election on November 21st is very important and encouraged everyone to vote.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling commented that the Council, Administration and local businesses and schools should continue to communicate regarding the parking ordinance. Also, he mentioned that the Three Rivers Art Festival was a great success with the preliminary attendance figures surpassing last year's attendance. Also, he commended Administration along with the Public Works, Fire and Police Departments for their work in helping with the event. Also, he mentioned there were eight new occupational licenses issued in October 2015. Also, he mentioned that Small Business Saturday is November 28th and encouraged the public to shop locally and support our local businesses. Upcoming events: Covington Art Market on December 5th from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M. at the Trailhead; Deck the Rails Kids Event on December 5th from 4:30 P.M. until 7 P.M. at the Trailhead; and the Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. Also, he commented that the renovations to the Council Chambers look wonderful.

5. District E –

Councilman Smith commented that the new Christmas decorations on Boston Street look great. Also, he wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

6. At Large (Vice President) –

Councilman O'Keefe thanked Administration, Public Works, and the Fire and Police Departments for the excellent work they do for the City. Also, he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

7. At Large (President) –

Council President Alexius mentioned that the HDC meeting was held recently and several issues were approved: (1) a new sign on the commercial property located at 215 N. Columbia Street; (2) renovating the commercial property located at 310 E. Boston Street into a six-unit apartment building; (3) demolition/relocation of the house located at 150 N. New Hampshire Street and the construction of a new single-family house on the property; and (4) demolition of the house located at 520 East 21st Avenue. Also, he mentioned that the P&Z meeting was held recently and several issues were approved: (1) the rezoning of a shopping center located at 842 N. Collins Boulevard from CN to CR; (2) modifications to the sign regulations; and (3) modifications to the definitions in Appendix B, Part 2. Also, he announced that the Covington Heritage Foundation and City of Covington will present the "History and Holly Home Tours" event on Sunday, December 6th from 4 P.M. until 8 P.M. in the West 22nd/West 23rd/West 24th Avenue area. Also, he announced that the annual meeting for members only of the Covington Heritage Foundation will be held on Tuesday, December 8th at the Southern Hotel, to be catered by the Ox Lot 9 Restaurant.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He thanked the Council for its work with Administration during the budget process;
- (b) He thanked the members of the Administrative staff who attended the meeting this evening;

(c) He mentioned that our 1982 sales tax rededication and extension proposition will be on the ballot on Saturday, November 21st. He stated this is a request to rededicate the one cent sales tax that is now restricted to certain uses to allow us to have the flexibility to use it for all municipal needs. Also, he mentioned that in order to fund possibly long term infrastructure and capital projects, it is a request to extend the term of the sales tax for an additional 18 years to the year 2045. He urged citizens to get out and vote in this very important election.

(d) He commended our local high schools who had winning seasons this year, particularly Covington High School, Northlake Christian School and Hannan High School. In addition, he commended St. Paul's for its winning season and wished them success in moving further in the playoffs.

(e) He commented that it is an honor to serve as Mayor of the City of Covington.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

Council President Alexius thanked the young ladies from SSA's Civics class who attended this evening's meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.



LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk